

Incident Distribution and Duration



Highway incidents and duration are tracked and compiled by the Coordinated Highways Action Response Team (CHART). CHART is the highway incident management program of the Maryland State Highway Administration. The program was initiated in the mid 1980's as "Reach the Beach," but has extended into a statewide program headquartered in Hanover, Md., at the Statewide Operation Center (SOC). The SOC is also supported by three satellite traffic operation centers (TOC), one being seasonal (Bay Bridge). TOC-3 is located at the College Park State Police Barracks and TOC-4 is located at the Golden Ring State Police Barracks.



An incident, as defined by the FHWA Freeway Incident Management Handbook, is any non-recurrent event which causes reduction of roadway capacity or abnormal increase in demand.



I-495 experienced a total of 1,051 incidents in 1997, approximately 3 incidents per day, within Maryland boundaries.



I-495 and I-95 experienced one severe incident, which blocked the road at least one hour, every 5 days, within Maryland boundaries.

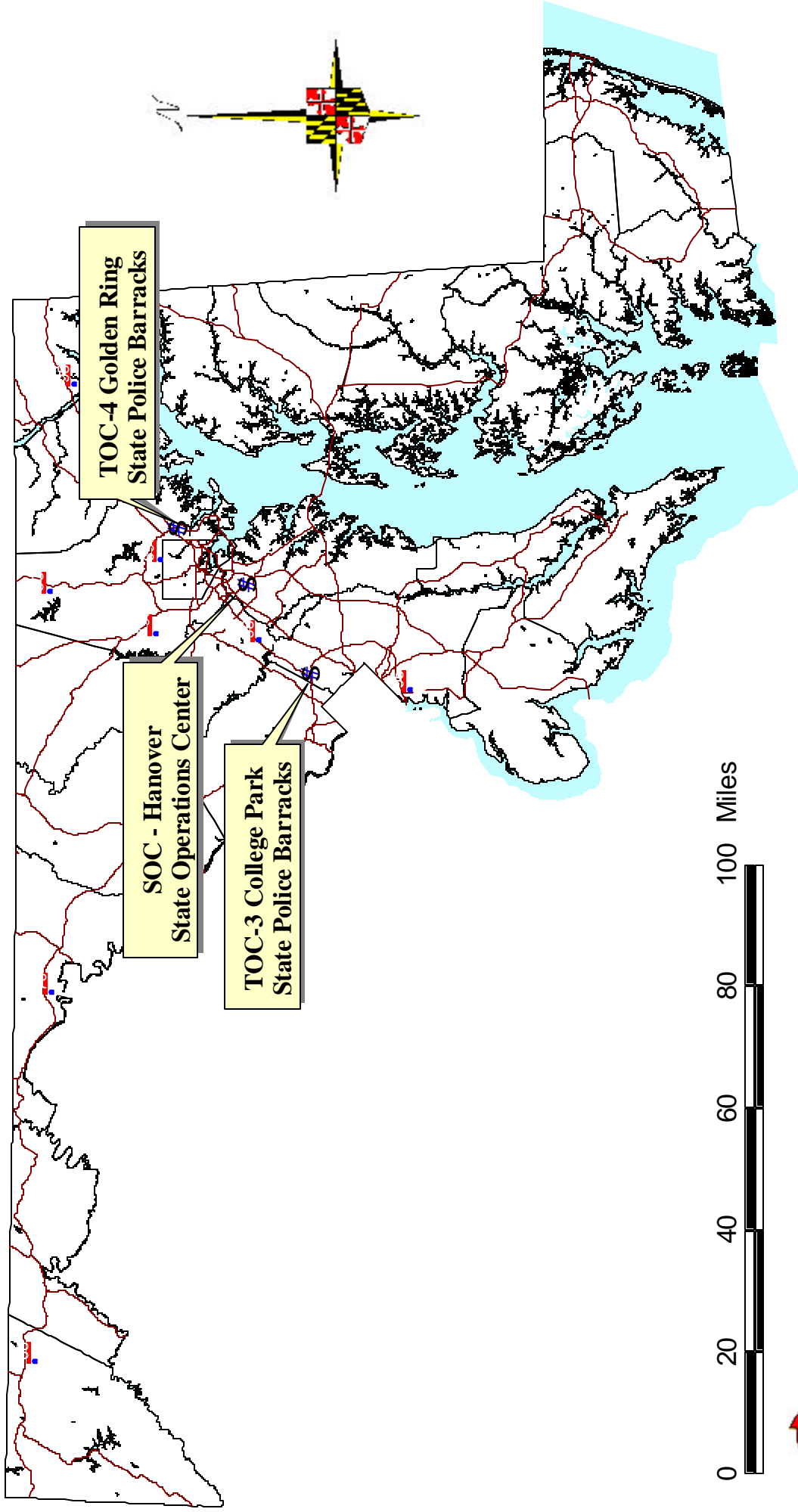


One-third of all incidents occurred during peak hours. Peak hours are defined as 7:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. for this study.



Incidents included are only those reported and responded to by CHART, there may be other incidents that occur on these roadways that are not reported.

Maryland Traffic Operation Centers



***Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration***